

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
BUDGET WORKSESSION MINUTES
May 14, 2013

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, at 12:30 p.m. to continue deliberations for the FY2013 - 14 Recommended Budgets. Mr. Banning, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

William B. Banning, Sr., Chairman
James E. Kinard, Jr.
Kent Collins
Bobby C. Keisler
M. Todd Cullum

Johnny W. Jeffcoat, V Chairman
*Frank J. Townsend, III
*Debra B. Summers
K. Brad Matthews

*Mr. Townsend and Ms. Summers arrived after the worksession was already in progress.

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; Randy Poston, Chief Financial Officer; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

The Budget Worksession video for this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Lexington County Video Web Portal at www.lex-co.sc.gov.

FY 2013 - 2014 Outside/Other Agency Requests

- **Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce - Department of Defense Funding for the Midlands Area - Ike McLeese, President & CEO** - Mr. McLeese provided handouts for Council. He presented a request for \$20,000 for support of the Midlands military efforts in FY 2014 and to help earn the reputation as being the most military friendly community in America which counts when considering base closures.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Mr. Cullum to fund the Chamber's request for \$20,000 for BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). (Funds will come from FY12/13 Economic Development)

Mr. Cullum asked if this motion was to place the request on the consideration list or to fund now.

Mr. Jeffcoat replied that his motion was to fund now.

Mr. Cullum responded it could be funded from last year's budget receipts for the \$20,000 in the Economic Development fund.

Mr. Jeffcoat confirmed.

In Favor: Mr. Banning Mr. Jeffcoat
 Mr. Cullum Mr. Kinard
 Mr. Collins Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Matthews

Absent: Mr. Townsend Ms. Summers

Chairman Banning reported that he and the County Administrator were in a meeting yesterday and learned that 50 Fridays a year Fort Jackson has graduations and fill up area hotels with parents from all over the world that come to see their children graduate. He said it is a huge economic driver for our entire region.

- **Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission - Randy Gibson, Executive Director** - Mr. Gibson reported that the Recreation Commission was not requesting a millage increase for the upcoming FY2013/14 budget. However, if Council adjusts the millage by CPI or the Population Growth, it would be appreciated if the millage agencies were included.

Mr. Cullum reported that the Recreation Commission should be receiving an award for Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center being named the 2013 Public Facility of the Year. He said he understands that it is only the second time in this organization's history that any facility in South Carolina has received this award.

- **Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission - Elizabeth Taylor, Executive Director** - Ms. Taylor reported that the Recreation Commission is not requesting an increase in millage but would like to be considered for any CPI or Population Growth increase as well as for the other millage agencies.
- **Riverbanks Zoo - Satch Krantz, Executive Director** - Mr. Krantz, along with Jan Stamps and Mary Howard both Lexington County's board representatives on the Zoo's Commission, reported the Zoo was not requesting an increase in millage but would like to be considered for any CPI or Population Growth.
- **Irmo Fire District** - Chairman Banning reported that Chief Sonefield was enroute from Charleston and would be presenting the Irmo Fire District's request upon his arrival.
- **Midlands Technical College - Dr. Marshall "Sonny" White, Jr., President** - Dr. White presented the College's request including a handout to Council. He reported they were not requesting a millage increase but would like to be considered for CPI or the Population Growth, or Council to consider funding the difference of \$178,502 between the Administrator's Budget and the College's request from their fund balance.

Mr. Mergo, County Administrator, reported there are sufficient funds in the Midlands Technical College fund balance if Council moves to fund the \$178,502.

A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Mr. Kinard to allow the College to have their fund balance request for \$178,502.

In Favor: Mr. Banning Mr. Cullum
 Mr. Kinard Mr. Collins
 Mr. Keisler Mr. Jeffcoat
 Mr. Matthews

Absent: Mr. Townsend Ms. Summers

- **Indigent Care** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Department of Mental Health - Mr. Ric Acton, Executive Director** - Mr. Acton presented the Department's suggestion to look at additional millage for their organization which would deal specifically with school based therapists. He reported that the Department has four school-based therapists, trained Mental Health professionals, in four of the five school districts and in twenty-three schools with 13 clinicians serving over 650 plus children excluding Lexington School District One.

Chairman Banning asked if the Department received any funding from the school districts.

Mr. Acton replied the four school districts do supplement a minimum amount of therapists' salaries and they bill Medicaid for the rest when they are able.

Mr. Cullum asked they were asking for a millage increase.

Mr. Acton confirmed

Mr. Cullum asked the Administrator if they were budgeted for ½ mill.

Mr. Mergo responded that is correct. He reported this is unlike some of the other state mandated legislation that the County has to fund in that the Department of Mental Health is not a department the County has to fund. He said one way the County tracks the Department of Mental Health to show the citizens of the county the portion going to them was to allocate a millage from the county ordinary on the County's tax bill. Mr. Mergo said the ½ mill generates about \$650,000 in funding for the Department.

Mr. Mergo reported that the amount of money that comes in is specified by that millage designated for the Department of Mental Health. But if the county were to increase the millage or the fund balance because it is just separated out for disclosure, any additional money from the county ordinary Council can decide on how they choose to allocate or not. There is no state mandate, as with Department of Social Services and the Health Department that a certain amount of money goes to those agencies.

Chairman Banning wanted to know what is the specific increase requested.

Mr. Acton replied the base \$650,000, that they have had for the past several years now which manages their emergency service program, plus an additional \$50,000 to expand school based programs.

Chairman Banning confirmed Mental Health was asking for an increase of \$50,000 for a total of \$700,000.

Mr. Cullum said it would translate to .50 mill, a very minimum increase.

Mr. Mergo asked if the \$50,000 request, going forward, would be a onetime or an ongoing request.

Mr. Acton responded it would be an ongoing request because they would want to maintain those services for the residents of the County.

Mr. Matthews asked if this was similar to the Midlands Technical College where they have built up a fund balance as well.

Mr. Mergo replied they do but Council still has a choice of how they choose to allocate the fund balance as it is not assigned to them.

Mr. Cullum said Council had decided a ½ mill funding for Mental Health.

Mr. Mergo responded this was done before him but it was much like Indigent Care which is another agency that the County is required to collect. He said we collect it out of county ordinary and we specify it on the tax bill so that the citizens and businesses understand some of the requirements that the County is asked to fund unlike some of those agencies the Department of Mental Health is something that this body has chosen to fund.

Mr. Collins said Mental Health wants \$50,000 for services they are currently providing.

Mr. Acton responded yes.

Mr. Collins asked if Mental Health is billing Medicaid for these services.

Mr. Acton responded when children and families are eligible, yes sir.

Mr. Collins asked if Mental Health is going to provide more services for the \$50,000.

Mr. Acton replied they anticipate adding four more clinicians to school based services at \$12,500 per position and would bill Medicaid and other available payer sources such as insurance or client fees to make up the difference. He reported the four school districts do provide a varying degree of funds. District One does not participate per the School's decision.

Mr. Cullum asked how many students does Mental Health see on a yearly basis.

Mr. Acton responded 650 plus students from the four school districts. He reported Lexington School District Two is considering expanding school based services in their district and have received \$15,000 for three therapists.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Collins to hold funding at the current level of \$650,000 and suggested an increase from the schools.

In Favor: Mr. Banning Mr. Kinard
 Mr. Collins Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Matthews

Opposed: Mr. Cullum

Absent: Mr. Townsend Ms. Summers

- **Department of Social Services** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Health Department** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Clemson Extension** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Department of Juvenile Justice** - No representatives present, no action taken.

Mr. Mergo reported that the reason all the departments shown are on the list is to be fully transparent with all the departments the County is still required to fund outside of the County ordinary general fund.

- **Probation/Pardon/Parole** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Legislative Delegation** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **RTA Contribution - Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority (CMRTA) - Bob Schneider, Executive Director** - Mr. Schneider presented CMRTA's budget information along with a Power Point presentation. He reported there is no increase in the amount of funds requested. He said as part of the ongoing partnership between Central Midlands Transit, as well as Community Development, they have been able to maintain their effective stewardship of public dollars and will be under budget again this year.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

Chairman Banning asked about the test route for the Red Bank Crossing Facility.

Mr. Schneider responded that on April 1, 2013 CMRTA started a new demonstration route, one day a week on Monday's only, from downtown Columbia through Cayce to the Red Bank Crossing facility. He reported the program is partially funded by Lexington Medical Center, Lexington County, City of West Columbia, Springdale, and City of Cayce. Mr. Schneider said the pilot program will allow CMRTA to receive passenger response to the new route for consideration.

- **SC State Museum Foundation** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Children's Shelter** - No representatives present, no action taken.

- **Dickerson Center for Children - Carol Yarborough, Executive Director** - Ms. Yarborough presented the Dickerson Center's budget request for FY2013/14. She reported that from 2011 to 2012 they saw almost 150 more children. The Department of Social Services is now third in the state for founded cases which means there are about four or five more children that are out there that need to be seen. Ms. Yarborough said they have comprehensive services for nearly 500 children seen in 2012 with no signs of slowing down in 2013. She said the Dickerson Center is requesting the County's continued support with a small increase from last year's budget of \$25,000 to \$45,000 for FY13/14.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Cullum said he wanted to point out that he has gotten to know the staff at the Dickerson Center over the past few years and fully supports their request.

Mr. Cullum put forth a motion, seconded by Mr. Collins, to place the Dickerson Center's \$45,000 request on the consideration list.

Mr. Kinard asked if there was any other funding from Law Enforcement, Solicitor's Office or other agencies that use their services and is the \$45,000 for ongoing operations or capital request.

Ms. Yarborough responded that it would help supplement the cost for forensic interviews so it goes directly into direct services.

No vote needed for consideration list.

- **Irmo Fire District - Chief Mike Sonefield** - Chief Sonefield reported Irmo Fire District is requesting nothing more than they requested last year other than any Growth or CPI if Council is inclined to do so for this year. He said the Fire District is in very good financial shape and they have the new fleet of trucks in from the bond. Chief Sonefield said they hope to see a new revenue source through the City of Columbia from a fee that was being charged to Lexington County residents; although, the fee is not for any service the City provides.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked when Irmo Fire District would be receiving that money.

Chief Sonefield replied they received the first check in April.

Mr. Matthews asked how long the fee was collected on the water bill by the City of Columbia.

Chief Sonefield responded that he believes it was when the city annexed Harbison around twenty years ago.

Mr. Matthews asked what was being done about back pay.

Chief Sonefield replied that it is so convoluted to where the money went but is actually a fire fee collected through the City of Columbia water bill and given to Richland County.

Mr. Matthews said that the County is getting roughly \$3,000 a month.

Chief Sonefield reported they asked for an informational scan of what they had and it appears there are about 17,000 water meters in the Irmo Fire District that are being charged one dollar per meter per month randomly to businesses, some households, and some in Chapin. He said the first check they received was for \$15,000.

- **Burton Center** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **EdVenture** - No representatives present, no action taken.
- **Soil & Water Conservation District** - No representatives present, no action taken.

Chairman Banning asked staff if the Soil & Water Conservation District was adding millage this year.

Mr. Mergo responded discussions were still pending.

Chairman Banning said this is something Council has no control over.

- **Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance - Ms. Tracy McMillan, Vice President of Operations** - Ms. McMillan presented the Alliance's request for an additional \$50,000 in order to remain competitive and add some long term development capabilities to their office as well as enhance their research and development management capabilities.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Mr. Kinard approve Alliance's request of \$50,000 for FY13/14 from the Economic Development fund balance.

Mr. Cullum made a motion to amend, seconded by Mr. Townsend to put on the consideration list.

Amendment:

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Collins	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Matthews

Absent: Ms. Summers

Amended Motion:

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Kinard	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Collins	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Cullum

Absent: Ms. Summers

- **Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter** - Chairman Banning asked Dr. Jarrell Smith, Executive Director, if he had anything to present before Council and Dr. Smith responded no.
- **River Alliance - Colonel Mike Dawson, Executive Director** - Col. Dawson presented the Alliance's request for \$51,000 which is the same amount requested last year. He said the amount is in level with the amounts from the City of Columbia, Richland County and about the same level from the Cities of Cayce and West Columbia. The funds would provide for their operational support. Col. Dawson reported this year they plan to create two more miles of greenway in Lexington County along the Congaree Creek to be paid for by SCANA Corporation. He provided further information on the projects planned.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve funding Alliance's request for \$51,000 at the same level as last year.

Mr. Kinard asked if the request was in the recommended portion of the budget.

Mr. Mergo responded no sir.

Mr. Kinard made a motion to amend, seconded by Mr. Matthews to place on the list for consideration.

Mr. Cullum said he was not going to support the amended motion because the County has been supporting this organization for ten plus years and there is no other organization other than the zoo that brings people of each of these counties to this area together. He said we are making great strides to put recreation and quality of life on that river that is unseen anywhere in this state.

Mr. Cullum asked if this is funded out of the Economic Development fund.

Chairman Banning confirmed.

Mr. Kinard said that is what he wanted to talk about is how this is going to be funded. He said he thought it was not a good or bad idea but wanted to discuss how we fund it.

Mr. Cullum said we are going to fund it the same way we always have.

Amendment:

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Matthews	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
Opposed:	Mr. Collins	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Cullum	

Amended Motion:

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Cullum
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Collins
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Matthews	

- **USC Incubator Project** - Mr. Jeffcoat recommended the USC Incubator Project be placed on the consideration list for funding of \$25,000; there was no opposition.
- **Community Open Land Trust (Lexington Greenway Alliance)** - Mr. Jeffcoat recommended the Community Open Land Trust be placed on the consideration list for funding the \$30,000; there was no opposition.
- **EngenuitySC - Mr. George Hutton, Executive Director** - Mr. Hutton reported that EngenuitySC received \$25,000 in funding last year and is requesting \$40,000 for this year.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Jeffcoat said funding would come from Economic Development.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve funding \$25,000 for Engenuity.

Mr. Keisler made a motion to amend, seconded by Mr. Townsend to place on the consideration list.

Amendment:

In Favor:	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Kinard	Mr. Collins
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Matthews

Opposed:	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Cullum
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Abstained: *Mr. Banning

*Abstention Form Attached

Amended Motion:

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Townsend	Mr. Collins
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Cullum	

- **Accommodations Tax Fund** - Chairman Banning reported Council members were being given the Accommodations Tax Fund Advisory Board's recommendations and advised them that four hours of the Board's proceedings were available online. He deferred discussions to the next budget worksession

meeting scheduled for May 21, 2013 and asked Council to review the Board's recommendations and video prior to then.

- **Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce - Navigating from Good to Great - Grant Jackson, Senior Vice President and Mike Crapps, Board Member-** Mr. Jackson presented information for the Navigating from Good to Great Program and included a handout for Council. He said the "Navigating from Good to Great" initiative is an economic/community development program focused on making our region, not just the City of Columbia, but the entire region, a great place to live and do business. Mr. Crapps presented the Chamber's Program request for \$50,000.

Chairman Banning opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked at what level has the City of Columbia and Richland County funded.

Mr. Crapps responded that the City of Columbia has contributed \$100,000 for the last five years and think they will again for the next fiscal year. Richland County contributed \$50,000 for the year 2011/2012 and for this most recent year increased it to \$75,000.

Mr. Kinard and Mr. Jeffcoat recommended placing on the final consideration list.

Executive Session - A motion was made by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Kinard to go into Executive Session to discuss three contractual matters.

In Favor:	Mr. Banning	Mr. Matthews
	Mr. Kinard	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Collins	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	

The next budget worksession is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21.

There being no further business, the budget worksession meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

William B. Banning, Sr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk